

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1684
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
NEW RIVER WATER TRIBUNAL
Dhindsa Shri Sukhdev Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Punjab to set up a new rivers water tribunal to reassess the quantum of water in the rivers which feed Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and other States in the region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) to (c) A Letter of Complaint dated 11.01.2003 received from the Government of Punjab requested for the constitution of a Water Dispute Tribunal regarding water disputes appearing to have arisen with the Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan and certain other States in the region. One of the specific matters in dispute cited therein for adjudication and decision by the Tribunal was whether the allocation of surplus water by the agreements related to Ravi Beas water required reconsideration under certain changed circumstances, including reduction in the available water. The agreements in question were later terminated by Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004 enacted by the State on 12.07.2004 and a Presidential Reference in the matter of the Act is before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India for consideration and report.

Also, during the 25th Meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held on 25th October, 2005 in Shimla, Chief Minister, Punjab is reported to have suggested that the entire issue of water sharing should be considered in totality with due regard to the changed hydrological, ecological and sociological factors by a fresh Tribunal.